

2008 Edition

Archives Access

An Esplanade Archives Publication

Tom Hargrave's Epic Story

A Love Like No Other,
The Tom & Mary Hargrave
Story
Pg. 7

The *Red* Letter Issue

Feature Biography:
George Davison
Pg. 5

Our Dedicated Volunteers
Pg. 18

The Spanish Influenza
Pandemic of 1918, A
Global & Local
Catastrophe
Pg. 19

The Esplanade Archives:
Your Guide to Donating
Pg. 15

ESPLANADE
ARTS & HERITAGE CENTRE
ARCHIVES

When do you celebrate having 1% of the job done?

...When you have
500,000
photographs to scan.

6000 images are now available to view online.
<http://www.esplanade.ca/archives/archives.html>

Thank you to our volunteers who continue to help with our digitizing project! Also, thanks to the Medicine Hat & District Historical Society and the Alumnae Association of the Medicine Hat General Hospital School of Nursing for your support of this project.

ESPLANADE

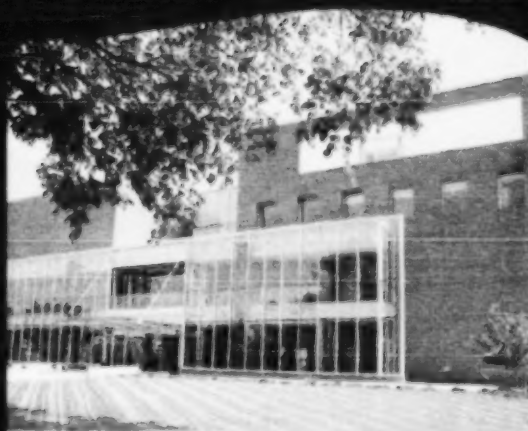
ARTS & HERITAGE CENTRE

your culture

archives art gallery museum
theatre education gift shop

connection

 **Medicine Hat**
The Gas City



401 First Street SE • 403.502.8580 • www.esplanade.ca

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Crash Landing	2
George Davison	5
Archives & Genealogy	6
A Love Like No Other	7
A Love Letter: From Tom to Mary	11
St. Theresa's Academy	13
Your Guide to Donating	15
Freelance Photo Collection	16
Volunteers	18
Spanish Influenza	19
The Jessop Nott Album	23
From the Stacks: Francis F. Fatt	26

Contributors:

Kim Frey
Philip Pope
Grace Christie
David Stewart

Archives Access

The Red Letter Issue...

From the Editor:

The latest issue of Archives Access is very special to us here at the Esplanade Archives. It follows our first successful publication, *Archives Times*, which was released in 2007.

Why is this particular edition titled the *Red Letter Issue*? Some of our most interesting archival letters are featured in this issue, and much like a *Red Letter Day* is an important and meaningful day, we feel that this is a very important issue. It focuses on who we are and what we're all about. It features article such as, "Your Guide to Donating", explaining what we do in the Archives, as well as stories directly from our collection like "From the Stacks."

Please enjoy the latest issue of Archives Access. We hope you have as much enjoyment reading the issue as we did in putting it together!

The Archives Access Team
Esplanade Archives



Crash Landing on the Prairies

Philip Pye, Esplanade Archivist

In the spring of 1941 a new era began for Medicine Hat. Months earlier, the Battle of Britain had been raging in the skies over the English Channel. The strain on the British Air Force was almost unbearable. After an exhausting combat against the German Blitzkrieg their resources had been depleted almost to the point of collapse. As a result, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan came into being, an operation that would see over 10,000 aircraft utilized, 100,000 men and women on the ground, and 130,000 pilots, navigators, bomb aimers, wireless operators, air gunners, and flight engineers graduate. A little over half of these graduates were Canadian, the rest were from other Commonwealth nations.

In April 1941, RAF 34 Service Flying Training School was created on the site which is now Medicine Hat's Airport. This was one of 105 venues throughout the country created or used for this massive mobilization.

For many of those who passed through Medicine Hat as part of this programme, this town on the prairies became a significant part of their lives. Some found their spouses here and returned after the war, but all made memories which we at the Archives are sometimes lucky enough to

must have changed beyond recognition. I shall always remember Medicine Hat as it was in 1943-1944. Your residents were wonderful hospitable people, and I felt "at home" with you when I was only 18 years old."

Making its way to my desk, I was moved by this letter. Also, I felt a little guilt for the time it took for me to respond, so I sent him a thank you letter and a copy of David Carter's book Prairie Wings. In response, we received the following letter, transcribed below.

Dear Mr. Pye

You kindly wrote to me on 12th December following my

letter to the Mayor of Medicine Hat in August. You sent with your letter a current satellite image of the airfield (my goodness how it has changed), and also a copy of Prairie Wings written and compiled by David Carter.



One of Rex Dawson's Photographs of Medicine Hat
Esplanade Archives P788.3

hear about.

In August 2007, Rex Dawson sent a set of three aerial photographs from 1944 to the Mayor's office, Medicine Hat, with a note requesting a home for these photos.

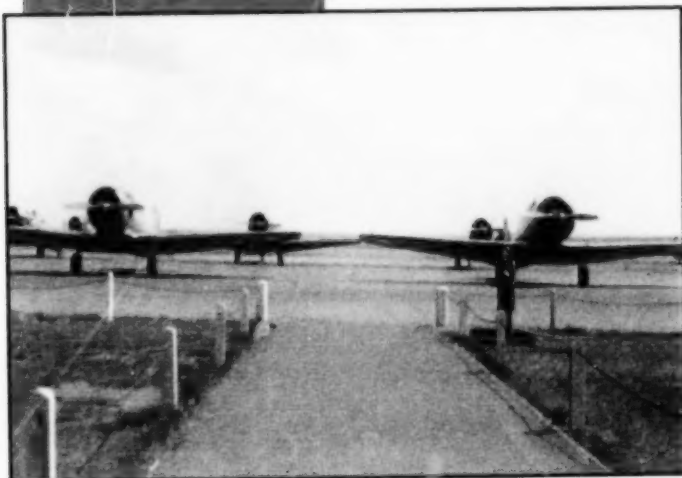
"I wonder if they'll be of any interest to you, as your city

Continued Pg. 3

Crash Landing continued...

"Fame indeed, the only mention I received in print for the whole of my wartime efforts was a boobed landing in the Canadian wilderness!"

Harvards lined up for inspection (ca. 1944)
Esplanade Archives, P768.15



Three Harvard
aircrafts flying in
formation.
No 34 SFTS
(ca. 1944)
Esplanade
Archives
P768.42

from it! May I tell you the full story which I have told perhaps a hundred times over the past 63 years?

Your letter arrived on December 24th, and I can honestly say that it is the best Christmas present I have received for many years. Thank you very much indeed.

It must be obvious of course that I would firstly read the paragraphs devoted to the timespan that I was stationed at Medicine Hat, and "lo and be-

hold", I am mentioned there on page 128. In case you do not have a copy in hand it says for April 6th 1944

"In the rapidly deteriorating weather today No 1683560 Sergeant Dawson R.A. Pilot Instructor, flying Harvard AJ923 with a pupil pilot on a navigation cross country exercise made a precautionary landing near Swift Current. The instructor (me) was slightly injured but the pupil was unhurt."

Fame indeed, the only mention I received in print for the whole of my wartime efforts was a boobed landing in the Canadian wilderness! At least it felt like wilderness to me at the time. And also as it says: any landing is a good landing if you can walk away

My full time job was to teach "pilot navigation." I did not teach the pupil how to fly the aircraft or how to take off and land etc. He was supposed to know how to fly the aircraft and fly it safely. After earning my pilots wings in August 1943, I received a special Staff Navigation course at Port Albert, Ontario before becoming an instructor at Regina then Medicine Hat. I got to know the area between Medicine Hat / Swift Current / Moose Jaw and also westward to Lethbridge then the beautiful mountain ranges as far as Calgary, very well indeed. I hardly needed a map. The Harvard was an exemplary training aircraft, but like all aeroplanes, it had its faults, one of which was carburetor icing.

Continued Pg. 4

In certain conditions just above freezing point the throat of the carburetor would (gradually) freeze up, restricting airflow and fuel to the engine. There was a manual control lever in the front (pupil's) cockpit only to supply heat to the airflow. Also at the time, we did not have radio contact with each other, and the only way to speak to the pupil was through a rubber tube! As I could not get the pupil to understand my instruction to operate the carburetor heat control I decided to make a precautionary landing near Swift Current before the loss of power would make a forced landing inevitable.

It was very bad visibility, but the land was flat, all the fields were square (as usual) and I chose a field without sign of any grazing animals. After flying over the field twice to check the approach and surface etc. I came in to land wheels down. Problem! I had not seen a coulee which cut across the corner of the field. After landing and breaking down to about 30 m.p.h. there was the coulee straight ahead with a cut-off railway (telegraph) line making a fence post in front of my starboard wing.

I hit the post and the aircraft went sideways down about 30 feet into the gulch, dry as a bone. It must have been like that for thousands of years. I had strapped up tight, the pupil hadn't, so he

cut his forehead on the rubber protected cockpit cowl. I was okay, but apparently the defunct radio that was behind my head came loose of its moorings and bashed me on the back of the neck and head. As I have always had a thick head, I did not feel it and quickly exited the aeroplane to help the pupil who was a bit dazed, dragging him away from the Harvard in case of fire. Okay, here we were in the middle of nowhere, but safe and sound on the deck. I looked around for some sign of civilization, and saw a wooden house, not far away, with nothing else around. It was still foggy, so I couldn't see that far. I walked up to the house which had a small porch. On the inner door spelled out with drawing pins to make a notice, it read "This is a private residence." I knocked on the door and a lady came dressed in a dressing gown. I explained the position and asked if there was a telephone available to call the R.A.F. station. She said no, but there was a telephone at the farm about a half mile up the road. I asked if my pupil could stay in her house whilst I went for help - no problem.

So, after walking about three quarters of a mile I came to a farm occupied

by two Chinese gentlemen who could hardly speak any English, but did have a telephone. After phoning the station, I managed with a little difficulty to make conversation with the two men who said "You no leave your friend in that house there. That house is not a good house, and is out of bounds to all R.A.F. personnel", upon which I damn nearly ran back, and brought my pupil to the Chinese farm. The biter to this story is that the pupil's name was Hoare!

Sequel: My mother got a telegram to say that I had been injured in an Aircraft accident. I had a flying test which went well, and eventually got my commission and onto Mosquitos and flew extensively in the Far East.

I do hope that I haven't bored you.

Yours Sincerely

Rex Dawson



Prairie Wings
By David J. Carter

To learn more
about the
British
Commonwealth
Air Training
Plans:

Read:

Prairie Wings:
RAF 34 Service
Flying Training
School
Medicine Hat
1941 - 1944 by
David J. Carter

or visit the
Permanent
Exhibit at the
Esplanade
Museum.

George Davison

Grace Christie,
Archives Volunteer



George Davison, ca.
1930
Esplanade Archives
P81.23

*Grace Christie is
an Archives
volunteer (and
retired teacher)
who has taken an
interest in
researching some
of the prominent
teachers of
Medicine Hat's
past.*

A prominent citizen of Medicine Hat, George Davison was born in 1907 in Scarborough, England and died October 20, 1986 in Medicine Hat.

He came to Canada with his parents in 1918. The family settled in Saskatchewan for two years and then moved to Medicine Hat. His father, a horticulturalist interested in the floral industry, chose Medicine Hat because it was one of the few places in Western Canada where there were greenhouses.

George attended Alexandra High School in Medicine Hat and then went to Calgary Normal School for his teacher training.

In 1925 he started teaching in Valley View School District in the Seven Persons area. There he was both teacher and custodian. He rode horseback six miles to and from school. He also taught in the Echodale School District near Hilda, in the Social Plains School District south of Bindloss and, lastly, in Alderson.

He married Eva L. Morris in 1933 and they had one son Morris.

In 1930 he came back to Medicine Hat where he taught Social Studies at Elm Street and Riverside Elementary schools. In 1940 he joined the Canadian Army and was loaned to the

British Army in 1944 through a wartime scheme known as Canloan. After several moves within Western Canada he was stationed in England with a British regiment. In 1944 he landed in Normandy, a few days after D-Day, and ultimately went to Germany with the army of occupation.

George was discharged from the army with the rank of Major and returned to Medicine Hat in January 1946. He intended to go back to teaching but the Medicine Hat School District #76 asked him to take on the duties of business administrator and he became Secretary-Treasurer. George remained as Secretary-Treasurer with the district until 1970 when he retired. He noted that when he started as Secretary-Treasurer there were 67 teachers and when he retired there were 284.

In the 1950's, during his tenure as Secretary-Treasurer, Medicine Hat and the school system grew considerably. There were a total of eight new schools built in that decade. George found himself doing part of the work of a superintendent during that time as there was no school superintendent.

During his career in Education George Davison was President and Secretary of the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) Local #1 and of the South Eastern Education Association. In

1974 he was presented with a life membership in the Alberta Teachers' Association. In 1982 a new school in District #76 was named George Davison School after him.

George was very active in the community belonging to a number of clubs and organizations. He was President of the Rotary Club, Master of the Masonic Lodge, on the Board of Elders for Fifth Avenue Church and a member of the South Alberta Light Horse Regimental Association. In addition he served as President of the Alberta Urban Municipalities and Chairman of the YW-YMCA Financial Building Campaign. George was on the Library Board and was chairman of that Board when the new library was being planned and built.

Continued Pg. 6



George & Eva
Davison, 1940
Esplanade
Archives
P588.11



George Davison
Chairman of
SEARPC
Esplanade
Archives
PT21568

tinguished service award from the Council of School Administrators.

In 1966 he was honored with a Citizen of the Year award presented for his work in the education and administrative fields in Medicine Hat.

In 1968 George Davison was elected to Medicine Hat City Council. He was re-elected in 1971 and continued to serve on the council until 1985 when he retired due to failing health. While serving on the Council he was Chairman of the

Finance, Land Development and Utilities Committees. During that time he also served on the Board of Directors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, eventually becoming president. He was awarded a lifetime membership by both these associations in recognition of his contributions to municipal politics.

He was known throughout his life as a statesman and an educator. During his 50 years of public service George Davison brought immeasurable benefits to the citizens of Medicine Hat. ■

He was involved with the establishment of Medicine Hat College and served on the Board of Governors of the College as a member and as Chairman. He was a member of the Senates of the University of Lethbridge and of the University of Calgary. George was given a dis-

Archives & Genealogy: A Fulfilling Adventure

Philip Pype, Esplanade Archivist

Genealogy is a specific venture into historical research, following family lineages back in time, and forward again, tracking down one's ancestry. On this journey there are many opportunities to explore beyond the charts and discover the lives behind the names on one's tree. Often this is where an Archives comes into play.

Although our records at the Esplanade Archives begin just prior to 1883 (when Medicine Hat became a permanent settlement), many family trees have been traced back almost a millennia. However, local researchers may want to locate in the Archives more information that could relate to the past two to five generations. A researcher may wish to do this for himself, friends, or family and could share and pass on the extensive research. Archives research can fill in many of the gaps and create a more

comprehensive understanding of a person's heritage ... What school did the grandparents attend? What was it like to work in one of the early Medi-



Researcher Alan Waller

cine Hat industries? ... or even, what did great Aunt Margaret look like? This, and much more, can be discovered by accessing the primary records the Archives has right here in Medicine Hat, such as photograph collections, school registers, letters, diaries, and so on.

The Esplanade Archives also offers some resources through our library which are useful for family research. We now subscribe to Heri-

tageQuest.com and Ancestry.com. We have a large collection of local history books. There are also biography and subject files, and we are working to develop our collection of newspapers on microfilm from around this region.

We not only encourage genealogists to search their local archives, we encourage anyone with an interest in local history. We also have descriptions of many of our holdings on-line as do various archives all over the world. For those who have the opportunity to travel to the place from which their ancestors have come, check out the archives in that area. It is one thing to see a scanned copy of a birth certificate, or land registry document on-line, but to actually hold it and see that signature in ink is a whole other experience.

So check out the Archives at www.esplanade.ca/archives/archives.html or phone to book an appointment at 502-8582. ■

*"Little Corn lead
them to a piece of
land just north of
Walsh, Alberta,
and this became
the new site of
the JH Ranch."*



Tom & Mary's grandchildren
(Tom, Joanne, & Glen)
Esplanade Archives
P769.23

A Love like No Other The Tom & Mary Hargrave Story

Kim Frey, Esplanade Archives Clerk

Great love stories are often reserved for those who exist beyond the confines of our real world. Literature, film, and folklore are the usual mediums through which these tales are expressed, giving them an unattainable air. In spite of this, there are occasionally two extraordinary people that cross paths in a relatively ordinary setting: an unexpected encounter, with seemingly insurmountable odds of success. Such an encounter occurred in the lives of Mary Whimster and Tom Hargrave.

Mary was born on January 28, 1884 near Strathclair, Manitoba. Her father, Harry Whimster, had an adventurous spirit, which lead him to seek work in the mountains of British Columbia. Mary and the rest of the Whimster family left Manitoba, and met their patriarch in the town of Fernie. Mary idolized her father's audacious character, and in many ways she took on many of his qualities.

While finishing her matriculation, Mary worked at the local post office

and taught Sunday school, saving up enough money to spend a year in Toronto at the Ladies' Presbyterian College. While in Toronto, Mary took art classes, for which she had a natural talent.

Whereas Mary's youth was filled with art classes, reading parties, and nature walks, Tom Hargrave's childhood was full of adventure. Born February 24, 1877 at Fort Francis, Ontario, Tom's first steps were taken at a Hudson's Bay Company Trading Post. Tom's father, James, seeking a new business opportunity, came to Medicine Hat, a growing town on the South Saskatchewan River. Here he opened a small general store, and his wife, Alexandra, and the children joined him soon after.

Young Tom made extra money with his brothers by swimming horses across the river while their owners crossed by foot on the train bridge.

The Hargrave boys grew to know the local Cree very well, so much so that in 1887 the boys received a gift from a nearby tribe, a bear cub. Nancy the bear became the newest member of the family, which



Tom & Mary Hargrave
Esplanade Archives
P769.740

surely occurred in spite of their mother's repugnance.

Tom's father, James, often sold goods out of his store in exchange for cattle, and as a result, the JH Ranch found its humble beginnings. After a particularly harsh winter in 1886/1887, James realized that there was not enough shelter or feed in Medicine Hat for his growing herd of cattle. Eleven year old Tom, who had a courageous spirit, the ranch foreman, Jack McDonald, and a Native guide, Little Corn, trekked across the harsh prairie seeking new grazing land for the cattle. Little Corn lead them to a piece of land just north of Walsh, Alberta, which became the new site of the JH Ranch. A house was built on the site the following year, and Tom eventually became the ranch manager.

Mary developed a deep love of art and literature, embracing eastern society's charm in Toronto. Upon her return to Fernie in 1905, Mary's love of knowledge and culture only grew, and she continued to save money to go back to Toronto, this time, to attend University. With help from her uncle, Robert Campbell, Mary had enough money to last four years at the University of Toronto. As it turned out, however, Mary's journey would take her on an unexpected path, and she would never return to Toronto.

Seeking a little adventure before starting her classes, Mary left Fernie in June of 1906. She planned to stay in Medicine Hat with an old friend, Kate Jamison, for a few weeks, and continue to the Qu'Appelle Valley and Portage La Prairie in order

to reconnect with family and childhood friends. Mary's father, Harry, asked her to visit Jimmy Hargrave in Medicine Hat, an old friend from his bachelor days in Manitoba. Mary, who had never met the Hargrave's, happily obliged. After a few days in Medicine Hat, Mary crossed the river and stopped in at the James Hargrave house. Expecting only a cup of tea with her father's old friends, Mary was invited on an outing to the JH Ranch with the Hargrave family. This appealed to Mary's taste for adventure and she accepted the invitation. After an entire day's travel on horse and buggy, they made it to the JH Ranch. Mary, disheveled and exhausted from the long trip, was formally introduced to Tom Hargrave that night. He fell in love with her at first sight.

In the few days that Mary spent at the ranch, Tom never

left her side. Mary was intrigued by Tom's character. To her, Tom was a simple cowboy, someone she would look back on with fond memories, possibly as a character in one of her future literary endeavours. The couple took long walks together and took many horseback riding trips across the plains. When Mary returned to Medicine Hat, Tom made excuses to go into town on a regular basis, either to buy supplies for the ranch, or just to visit with his family. The two were even known to write short love letters to each other, delivered by various members of the family and ranch employees. The time Tom and Mary were able to spend together was precious; however, Mary knew that it would soon be coming to an end.

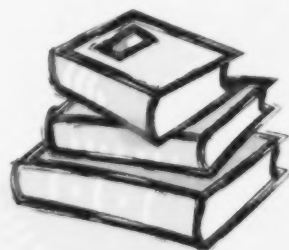
After staying in Medicine Hat only two short weeks, it was

"Expecting only a cup of tea with her father's old friends, Mary was invited on an outing out to visit the JH Ranch..."

Continued Pg. 9

Did You Know...

- The Esplanade Archives has over 500,000 photographs in its collections.
- Over 6,000 historical images can be viewed on the Esplanade Archives images database.
- The Esplanade Archives can reproduce archival images for researchers either on photo paper or copied to a compact disc. ■





The James Hargrave House
Medicine Hat
Esplanade Archives P769.849

"Tom's letters were so thoughtful, and so deep. Mary began to understand that, in Tom, was a man she could identify with and who would understand her."



Tom & Mary's children: Bert, Muriel, Nancy, Harry, Hope, and John
Esplanade Archives P769.861

time for Mary to continue her journey. Tom, panicking at the impending loss of his first love, desperately proposed marriage to Mary. Mary, torn between her passion for knowledge and her affection for Tom, declined his proposal with a heavy heart.

How could she marry him? They came from two very different worlds; hers was a world of culture and education, his a world of cattle and round-ups. What's more, they had only known each other for two weeks. She journeyed on, and Tom was left heartbroken.

The voyage to Qu'Appelle Valley was long. Mary was distraught over whether she had made the right decision. She knew it would never work between them, yet she still could not help but imagine what her life would be like with Tom on the JH Ranch.

Although dejected and left in Medicine Hat, Tom

A Love Like No Other Continued...

wrote Mary almost every day after she had gone. When Mary finally arrived in the Qu'Appelle Valley, waiting for her were all of Tom's letters. She immediately responded to him, and the couple continued their romance from a distance.

Tom's letters were so thoughtful, and so deep. Mary began to understand that, in Tom, was a man she could identify with and who would understand her.

It amazed her that in his letters he could quote history's great poets, like Tennyson, when he said "My strength is as the strength of ten, because my heart is pure," and in the next line discuss the goings-on at the local round-up that weekend. Could Mary really have both someone to share her intellect with and the adventure she yearned for in a frontier ranch life?

After only a few days in Qu'Appelle Valley, and away from Tom, Mary started to understand what her life would be like without him, and she could not bare it. Mary wrote Tom a letter, and in it she accepted his proposal. Tom was elated.

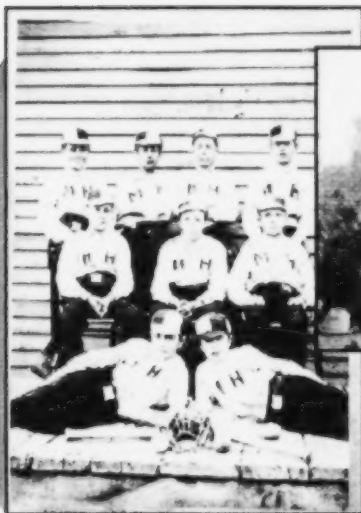
Mary began to announce her engagement to her family and friends after her arrival in Portage La Prael-

rie, and she wrote to her parents telling them of her change of plans. She worried that her parents would be angry with her decision to forfeit on university, and think of her as fickle and silly. At first, Mary's parents were concerned about the engagement of their daughter to a man she had only known for such a short time. In a letter written to Mary after hearing the news of her engagement, Mary's mother said, "I was surprised, to put it mildly... Oh Mary, Mary, what will you do next?" However, knowing that their future son-in-law was one of the Hargrave boys was a comfort, and they eventually warmed to the idea of their daughter becoming Tom's wife instead of going to university.

Mary used the money she had originally intended to pay for school and went to Winnipeg to begin shopping for her trousseau. Near the end of July she finally returned to Medicine Hat and to her beloved Tom, but only for a short visit. Her round-trip came to an end in mid-August when she returned to Fernie to be with her family and plan her wedding.

During their engagement, Mary and Tom exchanged numerous

Continued Pg. 10



Far Left:
Tom Hargrave
(Centre row, far
left)
P116.3

Centre Top:
Some of the Tom
Hargrave Family
P769.108

Centre Bottom:
Tom Hargrave
Ranch House
P66.28

Right:
Tom & Mary
Hargrave with
grandsons, Glen
& Tom
P769.196

A Love Like No Other Continued...

letters. A friend of Tom's, Melvin Downey, worked as a clerk on the CPR mail car on the Crowsnest Line, and would often deliver Tom's letters personally to Mary. A few times, Melvin smuggled Tom himself onto the mail car where he hid amongst the mail bags for hours just to see Mary for only a few days. While at the JH Ranch, Tom made improvements to the house in preparation for his future wife to come live there. Mary continued to teach Sunday school in Fernie while learning the duties of a good wife, taking on tasks like cooking and needlework, and preparing for the upcoming wedding.

The day finally arrived, five months later; Mary and Tom were wed at the Whimster house in Fernie. Mary's bridesmaid was her cousin, Wenonah Marlatt, and Tom's groomsman was his future brother-in-law, Jim Mitchell. Mary's dress was made of voile and lace, with a full-length, pleated skirt and train.

The wedding went off without a hitch, and the couple left for their honeymoon soon after. Spending two weeks in Vancouver, the couple walked the waterfront, dined in luxury, and went to the opera *Aida*. Mary was leading the cultured life she had always dreamed of. Throughout his life, Tom was known to whistle a tune when he was particularly joyful about something. It was later learned that this tune was, in fact, the theme from *Aida*.

Unfortunately, their honeymoon was cut short. Word from the JH Ranch came that Tom was needed after a particularly harsh January snowstorm had caused the cattle to drift far south. The couple rushed home where Tom's father was waiting for them at the train station. Back at the ranch, where panic reigned, Tom made a point of carrying his new bride over the threshold. The next morning Tom left to rescue the cattle; he was gone for days. This was the true reality of ranch life that Mary would have to deal with time after time. She worried, fearing that her new husband would be gone before they were even able to properly settle in together.

Nevertheless, Tom did return

safely with the cattle, and the couple continued on their long journey together. Mary was able to bring her views of culture to Medicine Hat; she was a founding member of the Women's Literary Society and the Hat Art Club. Still thirsting for knowledge, Mary attended the Banff School of Fine Arts. Tom also contributed a great deal to the community, not only by running a successful ranch, but by helping to create the Medicine Hat Historical Society and the Western Stock Grower's Association. Tom and Mary had six children, and a long and happy marriage of 48 years. Although there were many more trials and tribulations along the way, Tom and Mary grew together, prospered, and although sometimes it's rare, they had a happy ending. ■



Mary Hargrave
Esplanade Archives
P769.742

A Love Letter: from Tom to Mary

"I did not realize myself until I came home again and failed to see you, yet saw you everywhere."

"The ranch does not seem itself unless I shut my eyes and give rise to my imagination."

JH Ranch
July 5, 1906

My Dear Molly,

I reached the ranch this morning at half past one and searched high and low for a letter. Imagine my disappointment at not finding one. ___ saw me at the station devouring your "long and tiresome" letter. So much

get my letter posted till Monday. You don't know what that letter (long and tiresome) meant to me.

Re exploding: could I do so and put a tithe of ___ into this it would sound something like what I would fair have it.

If mother thinks we are both decidedly sudden she is the only one of a family that are decidedly pleased that I

think your letter just about perfect.

Friday, two weeks ago tonight it was. I crossed the hill again tonight at sunset, but alone, escape in thoughts.

You will think me sentimental, Molly. If what you write is sentimental, I like it, but cannot think of you as "Sentimental Tommy." Queenie says "just think of our matter-of-fact Tom." Do these pages bear out her verdict? Germans are not the only ones that believe in sentiment and grow young with it.

I remember the lines you quote and doubtless at the time. I read them first I thought as did the author. But now everything is changed. It means all to me and must be the same to all ___ men.

Make your journal entry and then tell me what it is. You know what I would like to read there.

Don't Sir Galahad me, although it pleases. He is the one knight of the "Table Round" in whom I have kept faith. Could I have, as you say, something cut in a tombstone above me, it would be —

If mother thinks we are both decidedly sudden she is only one of a family that are decidedly sudden that I have been so. They are all in love with you. I could easily become jealous.

so found I is that I read it three times before I reached home. Could I write one like it, or half as good, the postal department instead of two cents would derive from me a revenue three times as great because I would require three times the paper. Instead I never pass the four or six page limit of my uninteresting facts.

I can't thank you enough for it — considering your resolution not to write. I could not

have been so. They are all in love with you. I could easily become jealous.

You ask "are you sure Tom?" If you know what a difference you have made in my life you would not ask it. I did not realize myself until I came home again and failed to see you, yet saw you everywhere. You ask "what do you want me to write about?" I know, yet can't say, feel, yet cannot express myself. Yet I

Friday, two weeks ago tonight at noon. I crossed the hill again tonight at sunset but alone except in thought.

"My strength is as the strength of ten Because my heart is pure"

As a kid of twelve, I worshipped him for his physical prowess, but later when I read those two lines aright my respect and admiration increased, for —

"The glory of man is his strength"

{(Johnston's fluid beef) the only authority I can give}; moral and intellectual for more so than physical.

The round-up finished on Tuesday. I reached town that night and with Melrose heard the "Pollards", a juvenile troupe of Australians. It was the most enjoyable thing of the kind I ever attended in Medicine Hat. I was only sorry that you were not with me. You would like it. Youngsters from seven to fifteen taking their parts almost perfectly.

You can imagine how Dad

made use of the time I was at home to tease. Yet I like him all the better for it.

Strange to ___ after two weeks hard riding, long hours and loss of sleep I am six pounds heavier. I wonder if a doctor would be necessary to find the reason for this phenomenon. Tomorrow morning I start east for a three day ride and I feel sure that it will continue because my pillow will be higher than it was during the round-up.

We have a housekeeper here now and Melrose has been able to take a much needed holiday. She goes to Calgary and possibly Banff and will consult an oculist before returning.

The ranch does not seem itself unless I shut my eyes and give rise to my imagination.

Saw ___ this morning. He and Caesar would not mix with the other horses. They both seemed lone-

some and I feel sure could they have spoken I would have had to tell where you were and what you were doing.

My life has become too pleasant for me to run any unnecessary risks with my horses and they are all going to be sufficiently gentle for you to ride by September.

Don't judge the writer by his product "Could I utter (write) the thoughts that arise in me", this would be better, very much so.

Your sense of hearing is wonderfully developed Molly; yet you made a mistake. Instead of "what a length?" it was "how short?" I read it five times before I was satisfied.

Goodbye Molly, and when next you take a ramble on the hills you speak of tell me if I am present.

Tom & Mary's love letters are part of the Hope Hargrave Michael fonds in the Esplanade Archives. To view this collection, and others, make an appointment to visit the Archives by calling (403)502-8582.

Goodbye Molly & when next you take a ramble on the hills you speak of tell me if I am present.
Tom.

St. Theresa's Academy

Grace Christie
Archives Volunteer



A.B. Smith, cutting his lawn in Riverside. St. Theresa's Academy in the background. Esplanade Archives P784.22

"One of the chores involved going to Police Point to gather large rocks and transporting them by wheelbarrow, some two miles, mostly uphill, to build a stone wall around the Academy."

St. Theresa's Academy was started by the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis. This order was founded in the 1790's in France. Their aim was to provide shelter and education for destitute orphan girls in Vanne, France. The order spread to different parts of France where they ran schools, orphanages and hospitals. At the turn of the 20th century the sisters began to move out of France and in 1902 the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis came to Canada.

In 1912 they ventured west and came to Medicine Hat at the request of Father Cadoux, who wanted to start a separate school here. Five Sisters came to live on the top floor of the new St. Louis School on Balmoral Street in December, 1912. Two of them began teaching at St. Louis School in January 1913 when that school opened.

These five sisters were: Sister St. Gurval, Superior, Sister Mary Albert, housekeeper, Sister Philomena, music teacher, Sister Anna Mary and Sister Mary Veronica, certified Alberta teachers.

In the fall of 1913 plans were completed for St. Theresa's Academy which would also be a boarding school. This Academy would be run by the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis and would be built on the brow of the hill called Crescent Heights.

The Convent was planned to be built of brick, and have 3 stories, with a full basement. It was to be built on land donated by the Bennett, Brown and Bryanton families. The cost was estimated at \$30,000 to \$40,000. There would be apartments for the sisters, dormitories, parlors, classrooms, a gymnasium and a chapel.

The Academy was opened in January 1915. As the First World War was on, most families could not afford to pay board for their children so not many boarders came at first.

During September 1915 more boarders came, so there was a total of 11 boarders and a few "day scholars." Two classes were opened and by January 1916 there were 30 boarders.

By the end of the Scholastic year, in 1918, the number of boarders had reached 102. Eight pupils had written Departmental Examinations and 14 music pupils had passed with honours. In September 1918 the Academy had 70 boarders. Unfortunately there was a flu epidemic which caused "some dispersals." In June 1919 only 5 pupils could write the Departmental Examinations as some of the students had chicken pox.

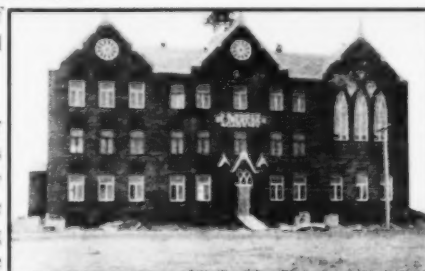
During the summer of 1919 the Sisters completed many tasks around the Convent including enlarging the pasture

for the cow, fixing the fence and planting trees. One of the chores involved going to Police Point to gather large rocks and transporting them by wheelbarrow, some two miles, mostly uphill, to build a stone wall around the Academy. The temperature sometimes reached 105 degrees in the shade.

In 1930 St. Theresa's became affiliated with the University of Ottawa and became known as St. Theresa's College. The four years of university courses were to be taught the same as at the University of Ottawa. The Sisters were pleased because, instead of going to a secular university, the Academy's young girls could now get a Baccalaureate at home in Medicine Hat.

In June 1937 the first four students who had attained the Bachelor of Arts degree at St. Theresa's college graduated. This was a milestone in the story of St. Theresa's. Also in the summer of 1937 a new library was opened. This library was deemed a necessity by the Mother Superior for the development of the student body and for the enjoyment and education of the Sisters.

continued Pg. 14



St. Theresa's Academy (ca. 1914) Esplanade Archives, P350.23

In the fall of 1939 a Chemistry Lab was opened. It was located on the basement floor of the Academy and was modern and well equipped.

In September of 1941 school was not opened at the usual time due to Infantile Paralysis (Polio) and sleeping sickness being wide spread in Alberta. The Board of Health in Edmonton banned public gatherings of children under 17. School opened September 22, 1941.

After only 12 years, in 1942, the Arts degree program was no longer offered at St. Theresa's College. The university courses were discontinued because of a lack of teachers due to World War II.

St. Theresa's was a private school until 1948 when the Separate School Board of Medicine Hat rented classrooms in the Academy and took over the duty of hiring staff.

School opened in September 1948 with an enrolment of 190 at the Academy. There were 65 in High school; 45 in Junior High; 35 in Division 1 and 40 in Division 2.

In January, 1950 began with some problems for the Convent as there was heavy snow preventing many students from returning to classes after the Christmas holidays. In addition, the temperature was -42 degrees Fahrenheit and a steam pipe broke in the furnace. The pupils who had made it to school had to be dismissed at 11:30 in the morning. There were 14 graduates in 1950.

That summer Mr. Frank Westgarth began painting the chapel green and gold and other parts of the Convent received a thorough cleaning. The boy's dorm was painted and new toilets were installed on the basement floor while all the Sisters were absent for two weeks at the annual retreat in Moose Jaw. This was the first time the Academy had been vacated for two weeks.

In 1951, the month of March was a very cold month. Temperatures ranged from 35-40 degrees below zero and



St. Theresa's Academy (ca. 1925)
Esplanade Archives. P61 6.9

there was a blizzard on March 16, causing roads to be blocked and shops to be closed. Snow entered the Academy "through doors and windows and spread out on the floors."

In 1970 when the Novitiate that was located at the Academy had been relocated to Edmonton, the senior sisters moved to Calgary. The remaining sisters moved to a new residence on 12 Street SW in Medicine Hat. The continued maintenance of a building the size of the Convent as a useful institution had become impossible for the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis. On January 17, 1971 St. Theresa's Academy was sold.

The Sisters of Charity of St. Louis sold their building to Stober Construc-

tion Co. who resold it to Walter Brown. Mr. Brown planned to use the original building as a rooming house or apartment building but this was not practical. Therefore it was necessary that the old convent be torn down so that an apartment building could be built on the site.

In 1973 both the Medicine Hat Historical Society and the St. Patrick's Catholic Women's League expressed concern about the demolition of the historic building which had stood on the crest of the Cres-

cent Heights Hill since 1915. Many in the community also supported keeping the Convent as a historical site. Mr. Brown agreed to put his plans on hold while Convent supporters tried to find money to purchase the building from him to preserve it as a historical site. Unfortunately no funds were available and in July of 1973 the old

convent was torn down. Many people were saddened by the loss of this historic building. The owner of the building, Mr. Walter Brown, saved the bell tower intact. This tower had stood atop the St. Theresa's site for all the years of the building's existence. The tower was donated by Mr. Brown to St. Patrick's parish council.

St. Theresa's Academy stood proudly on the Crescent Heights Hill overlooking the city of Medicine Hat for over 50 years. The Sisters of Charity of St. Louis educated many young people during most of those years and provided many other community services. Their legacy, and the building itself, live on in the memories of many. ■

"Our holdings belong to the public, and as Archives professionals, we are obligated to utilize and take care of them to the best of our abilities."



The Esplanade Archives Reading Room

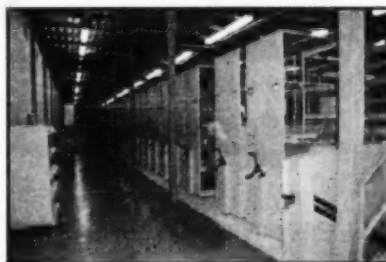
A Guide to Donating Your Records

What is the Esplanade Archives?

The Esplanade Archives collects, preserves, and provides access to the documentary heritage (including papers, photographs, and audio-visual recordings) of Medicine Hat and surrounding areas. We have acquired our extensive holdings largely through donation of materials from those who have recognized the importance of the records of their families, organizations, or businesses and wished to see them preserved for this and future generations, to learn from and enjoy.

What Does Donating Mean?

Donors are asked to sign a Gift Agreement, a legal document which officially transfers ownership to the Esplanade Archives, City of Medicine Hat. We can only invest labour and materials to preserve those items we own. The Ar-



Esplanade Archives Collections Storage

chives has a 'no loan' policy, so be sure you feel it is the right time to donate.

Why Donate Your Records?

The Esplanade Archives holds its records in the public trust. Our holdings belong to the public, and as Archives professionals, we are obligated to utilize and take care of them to the best of our abilities.

By maintaining records under strict environmental controls with standards regarding proper handling, our professional staff can ensure their safe-keeping for this and future generations.

Continued Pg. 16



Panorama of Early Medicine Hat, ca. 1904

Esplanade Archives P634.1

Guide to Donating continued...

What Is the Archives Looking For?

The Esplanade Archives considers donations from single items, to large collections encompassing several boxes.

Archives staff are trained in determining what papers are of value for preservation. We encourage people to NOT cull and re-organize their papers before bringing them to the Archives as the records may have more value to researchers as a whole, or have information the donor may not initially perceive.

So, What Types of Things Can Be Donated?

Personal / Family papers

letters
memoirs / reminiscences
diaries
scrapbooks / photo albums
professional papers
genealogical information
speeches / lectures
business records
subject files
legal documents
minutes / reports
brochures and flyers
Photographs

Business / Organization

Records
architectural records
articles of incorporation, charters, constitutions
budgets, financial Statements
bylaws and revisions

clippings, subject files
constitution and revisions
correspondence / memoranda
directories / membership lists
handbooks
legal documents
minutes of meetings
films / videos / audio tapes (labeled)
newsletters and other publications (generated by the organization)
organizational charts
pamphlets, brochures, fliers, etc.
photographs
planning documents
press releases
reports (annual, committee, etc.)
rosters
scrapbooks
speeches

(<http://www.archivists.org>)



The Freelance Photo Ltd. Collection: A History

Kim Frey, Esplanade Archives Clerk

An interesting collection that the Esplanade Archives has just recently acquired through donation is the Freelance Photo Ltd. Collection. The significance of this collection is vast. It includes approximately 20,700 docks (photograph sessions) of portraits for numerous families, events, clubs and organizations, small and

large business documentation, as well as documentation of historical events of broader interest in Medicine Hat.

Freelance Photos Ltd. was one of the main studio photography companies in Medicine Hat from 1960 to 1991. Its original owner, James Simpson, also purchased some of the later negatives of Everett's Studio, which closed in 1959

and was located across the street from the original Freelance Photography location in Northwest Medicine Hat.

This was likely done so that former Everett's customers could access the negatives for order.



Continued Pg. 17



There are two distinct eras in the company's history, in which James Simpson was the president and principle photographer. The first is from 1960 to 1965, when Patrick Potter was the secretary treasurer, and the second from 1965 to 1978 when Mary Simpson (wife to James) was secretary treasurer.

In 1978, Freelance Photo Ltd. was sold to husband and wife, Bruce and Jan Dynes. Bruce being the company's photographer and Jan running the business operations. The Freelance photographs complete a collection held by the Esplanade Archives that makes up a strong majority of the studio work done in the post-war period in Medicine Hat. In a world of changing technologies, a collection such as this is rare; especially

when department and big-box stores are beginning to dominate the world of portrait photography. Almost all professional photography is now done digitally, so this is somewhat of a "last chance" to collect such work in a traditional film format.

Because of the obvious significance of the Freelance photograph collection, the Esplanade Archives accepted the donation eagerly. The collection was initially stored in the Esplanade's Quarantine Room, and since September 2007, we have been in the process of transferring the materials to acid free envelopes and boxes. After re-boxing (thanks to Esplanade volunteer Gay Pelchat) the collection is being organized alphabetically based on year and photograph category (i.e.

portrait, wedding, commercial, etc.). Eventually, the collection will be added to the rest of the Esplanade Archives images and available for the public to view. Because of a grant from the Archives Society of Alberta, the immense task of databasing the images has begun.

If you are interested in these or any other images in the Esplanade Archives, phone (403) 502-8582, or visit www.esplanade.ca.

"A metamorphosis takes place when objects, no matter what their intrinsic value, are transferred from personal possessions to museum objects. All acquire a uniqueness that exceeds previous existence."

Dean, David, & Gary Edson

Collections Management. *The Handbook for Museums* (1994), pp. 67.

New Genealogy Resources

The Esplanade Archives has two new resources that use technology to make tracing family trees easier. Ancestry® Library edition and HeritageQuest Online™, web-based reference tools from ProQuest Information and Learning, will allow Medicine Hat residents to start exploring their roots by searching a surname. Make an appointment with the Archives to come and start researching your family's genealogy!

Esplanade Archives: (403) 502-8582
<http://esplanade.ca/archives/archives.html>

ancestry library edition

HERITAGE QUEST ONLINE

Our Dedicated Volunteers

Kim Frey, Esplanade Archives Clerk



Gay Pelchat
Esplanade Volunteer

The Archives has been a busy place in the last year.

We have been buzzing with activity, mainly because of a group of eight dedicated volunteers who are completing many of the important tasks that make the Archives accessible to the public.

Alan Waller and Earl Morris are on the go scanning images and making them available to view online.

Bev Graham and Kevin Winchester are entering information to the online database about the Gains-

boro Photograph Collection.

Christie Hammel has recently completed entry of vital statistics from the Medicine Hat News for the years 1890-1920.

These statistics include births, deaths, and marriages that occurred in Medicine Hat during this time period. Eventually this information will be available on a database for the public to view. Currently Christie is working on re-organizing our Biography files.

Erin Doyle assists with the organization of our photograph collections. Sometimes we pull hundreds of photographs from the back storage area for researchers. When they are done, Erin puts them in numerical order and refiles them.

Gay Pelchat is working on

our recently acquired studio collections. She ensures that the photograph docket envelopes are in alphabetical order so that we can access them more easily for researchers.

Grace Christie has taken an interest in Medicine Hat's past teachers, and is hard at work researching the lives of outstanding teachers that have made a difference in the community, such as George Davison, Vera Bracken, and Kelly Burbidge.

The Esplanade Archives' volunteers provide an essential service to us, and have basically become part of the Archives family. Without them many of the services that we now have available to the public, such as our online databases and access to the studio collections, would not be in place. ■

"The Esplanade Archives' volunteers provide an essential service to us, and have basically become part of the Archives family."

A History of Archives Around the World

UBC Library (<http://www.library.ubc.ca>)

- Archival work aims to preserve the context in which records were created, maintained and used.
- Archives existed in ancient times (including Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome) and housed government or public records. Records were evidence of action taken and decisions made.
- Archives (buildings) were secure and designed to preserve documents as evidence. For example, the Roman Tabularium had hallways and enclosed staircases connecting it to government buildings.
- In France, the *Archives Nationales* allowed the public to access government records in 1794. Prior to this, archives were generally closed to all except a select few.
- In Canada, archival institutions attempt to document Canadian history from all segments of the population and in all record formats. Government archives often hold private papers in addition to government records. This is known as *Total Archives*. ■

The Spanish Influenza Pandemic of 1918

A Global and Local Catastrophe

Philip Pye, Dr. Florence Melchior, and the Medicine Hat College Health Studies Department

The Provincial Board of Health had this advert placed in newspapers across the province, as masks were to be worn whenever in public. *Medicine Hat News*, October 28, 1918

In the spring of 2007, the Esplanade Archives partnered with the Health Studies department of Medicine Hat College to research and create an exhibit on the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918. Four nursing students: Susan Johnson, Marlene Olson, Shannon O'Neil, and Tamara Richardson conducted research in the Archives and elsewhere, while their instructor Dr. Florence

Melchior and Archivist Philip Pye pulled the information together into a concise exhibition.

This historical survey, showing how a pandemic spread, and how officials, media, and the public reacted, has contemporary implications. Currently, individuals, organizations, and governments investigate pandemic preparedness as SARS, Bird Flu, and other potentially global outbreaks enter our global and local consciousness.

The Perfect Storm

Young, healthy people were most susceptible to Spanish Influenza. With millions of military personnel experiencing the extremes of fatigue in the deplorable conditions of World War One, the stage was set. As the War drew to a close, one of the largest human migrations ever occurred. Soldiers and support personnel returned to homes over

transcontinental railways and over oceans in cramped conditions, and civilians were returning to devastated homelands. Many of these people were suffering from and spreading Spanish Influenza.

Those returning included healthcare givers like nurses, who were themselves mentally and physically exhausted. Upon returning most were thrown from one horrific crisis to another. The War had consumed huge amounts of resources, and communities were not prepared for a disease which would kill more people than the "war to end all wars."

Spreading West

The first mention of influenza in the *Medicine Hat News* came on June 17, 1918. It purports an influenza outbreak in the heart of German territory, Berlin.

Continued Pg. 20

HEALTH DEPARTMENT GIVES INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT INFLUENZA

Instructions as to the making and use of masks have been sent out by the provincial board of health. These are to be used on all occasions outside the home.



To Make a Mask—Take a piece of ordinary cheesecloth, 8x10 inches. Next fold this to make it 4x4 inches. Tie cord about 10 inches long at each corner. Apply over mouth and nose as shown in the picture.

To be worn in the sick room when taking care of a patient. Keep the nose and mouth covered while coughing or sneezing. A mask should not be worn more than two hours, then disinfected by boiling.

Spanish Influenza continued



Returning soldiers, 2nd Street
Esplanade Archives P435.15

Spanish influenza."

Then the next day, more stories ... Ten deaths in Quebec, 73 victims in Boston, another death in Niagara Falls. From this point the reports are regular. On October 17, the influenza is knocking on the door as Taber is reported as under quarantine, then Lethbridge and Seven Persons.

Much of the advice given by local officials and the Provincial Board of Health was simple common sense, and other advice was more directed at avoiding panic: "Don't get scared and keep your head, don't talk about all the people you know who have it, and two sneezes do not necessarily make one case of Spanish Influenza".

Caution over Fear

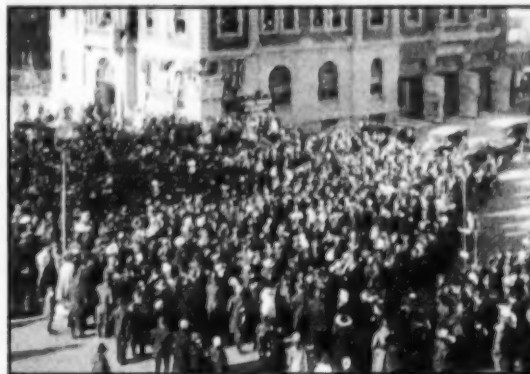
As influenza became a deadly reality in Medicine

Advice was also given on how to prevent the spread of the disease. Public

"Don't get scared and keep your head, don't talk about all the people you know who have it, and two sneezes do not necessarily make one case of Spanish Influenza."

Because of this, details are scarce and the subject does not broach the pages of local media for over three months.

Suddenly, on September 3, the reports explode as does the disease which had quickly spread across the Atlantic. "An epidemic of Spanish Influenza is raging in Victoria-ville, Que. where 300 students at college are reported to be sick. So far two of the teaching brothers have died. A scholar has also succumbed. Morgue statistics today show that in the course of the last few days nine sailors have died on ships in the harbour of Quebec, apparently from



Crowd gathered in front of City Hall (intersection of 2nd Street and 6th Avenue) in celebration of the signing of the Armistice - many wearing masks (November 11, 1918)
Esplanade Archives P435.16

Hat, officials encouraged extreme caution without inciting fear. Officials avoided words like "outbreak" or "epidemic" and encouraged others to do the same.

gatherings were discouraged and banned. Public places such as theatres were closed. Instructions were distributed on how to make a mask, but other instructions were more mundane, like drinking lots of water, limiting exposure to cold, and getting fresh air.

Only a minority of cases were in the hospital which filled up fast. Montreal Street School was used as an impromptu hospital, and many patients had to be cared for in the home. Advice was more

On account of the Epidemic of

Spanish Influenza

the Board of Health has ordered all theatres, schools and churches closed.

To conform with the order the

Monarch and Empress

will be closed till further notice.

The Provincial Board of Health instituted restrictions on public gatherings; they closed theatres and other gathering places.
Medicine Hat News, October 18, 1918

"While many put their own health at risk to help others, there were instances of trying to cash in on the suffering."

about making the patients comfortable than treating them as there was no treatment other than rest. Hon. A. G. McKay, Provincial Board of Health also distributed information on how to take care of those who were ill. "General unworried service, avoid chattering, nagging or questioning; anticipate wants of sickest patients; convalescents usually ask for what they want. Keep patient in bed at all times. (This means patient must not get up to go to the bathroom). Two or three pillows arranged step fashion,

the lowest well under the shoulders, will make breathing easier. Keep the arms and shoulders well covered. Ventilate the room freely. At the outset, headache and backache are frequent. Cold cloths (moist but not dripping) to the head changed frequently to give relief."

While claiming only one case in the City, officials released a description of symptoms.

"...are those of a heavy cold, more or less severe headache, cold in the head and throat, fits of sneezing, flushed face, chills, aches and pains in the back and limbs, pains in the eyeballs and behind the eyes, general physical depression and temperature rising to between 101 and 104 degrees. Patient should go to bed, seek medical attention and guard against pneumonia. ... Disease is transmitted by direct or indirect contact, through the use of handkerchiefs, common towels, cups or articles contaminated with fresh secretions from nose or mouth."

Self-Sacrifice

Those who came forward to help were the most at risk as they were constantly exposed to the illness. Nurses and volunteers worked around the clock, increasing their risk with exhaustion.

Three local nurses contracted and succumbed to Spanish Influenza while caring for those in their community. Annie Stothers, 24 years, 1917 graduate of Medicine Hat General Hospital School of Nursing. Evadina McCutcheon, 29 years, 3rd year pupil nurse at Medicine Hat General Hospital School of Nursing. Vivian Nichols, early 20s, pupil nurse at Medicine Hat General Hospital School of Nursing.

While many put their own health at risk to help others, there were instances of trying to cash in on the suffering. Numerous ads appeared in the Medicine Hat News hawking cures where there were none.

Continued Pg. 22

In Calgary, a woman was charged with not only posing as a nurse when she was not, but also charging almost double the standard rates for her services.

It is not known precisely how many people died from Spanish Influenza worldwide. Estimates run from 30 to 40 million dead. In 1918 Alberta's population was about

590,000. Of those an estimated 38,000 people were infected (1 in 15), and 4300 passed away (1 in 137).

There are no firm statistics for Medicine Hat, but it is likely that several hundred were infected, and that dozens would have died from the illness. By 1919, Spanish Influenza had run its course, and since then

Medicine Hat has not faced such a health crisis. However, in the past decade a new awareness of pandemic has arisen as SARS, Bird Flu, and Ebola make the evening news. Many health professionals argue that it is not a case of IF, but WHEN. The realities of history make the threat more real. ■

"By 1919, Spanish Influenza had run its course, and since then Medicine Hat has not faced such a health crisis."



A crew of workmen, completing the construction of Finlay Bridge in Medicine Hat, Alberta (1908).
Esplanade Archives
P148.4

The 100th Anniversary of Finlay Bridge, one of Medicine Hat's most recognizable landmarks, was on May 14, 2008.

The Jessop Nott Album

In 1981 the Medicine Hat Museum Archives received a very significant photo album which had been discovered in Port Perry, Ontario.

The following is a sample of the 116 images from this album, taken by undertaker and amateur photographer, Jessop Nott. He documented many of the significant buildings around Medicine Hat at a time when the city was growing quickly.

If you wish to see the rest of the images of the Jessop Nott album, go to www.esplanade.ca/archives/archives.html and search for "Jessop Nott."



Aerial ladder truck deployed for demonstration outside the Medicine Hat Fire Department Headquarters, which were located in City Hall at the corner of 6th Avenue and 2nd Street SE (ca. 1913).
Esplanade Archives, 0350.0009



The exterior of Elizabeth Street School (ca. 1914).
Esplanade Archives, 0350.0038



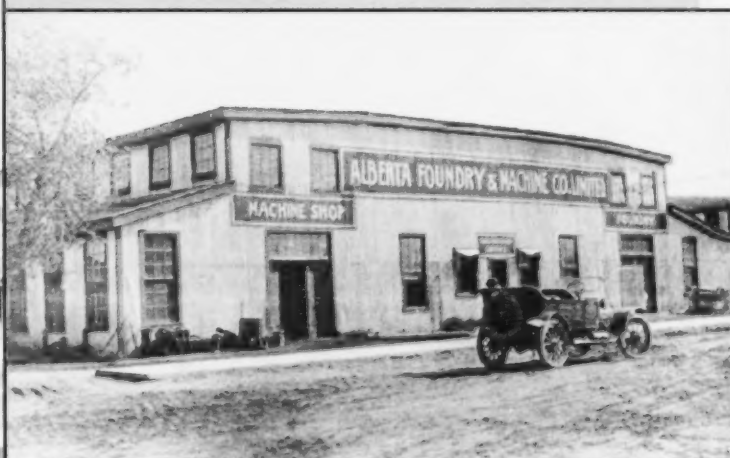
Exterior of the wood frame building used as the Medicine Hat Isolation Hospital, located near present day Kipling Street in Kin Coulee (ca. 1913).
Esplanade Archives, 0350.0046



Exterior of the Corona Hotel and Theatre (ca. 1913). Esplanade Archives, 0350.0053



(LEFT) Exterior of the Birnie Block which housed Birnie Bros. Ltd. (hardware), located at 536 2nd Street (ca. 1913). Esplanade Archives, 0350.0062

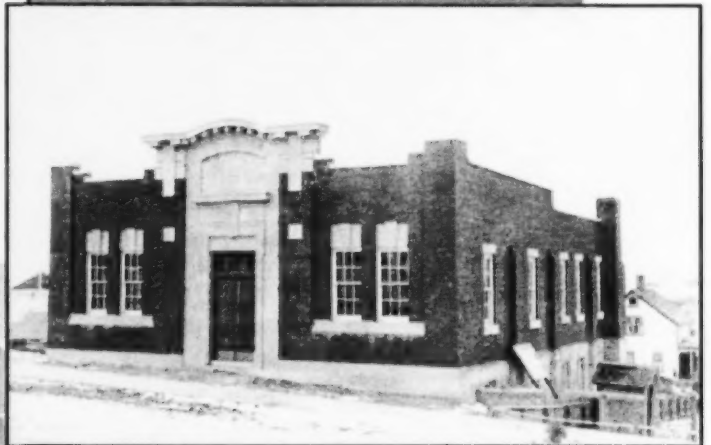


(ABOVE) Exterior of the Alberta Foundry & Machine Co. showing machine shop and foundry entryways (ca. 1913). Esplanade Archives, 0350.0086

Jessop Nott Album continued...



(ABOVE) Exterior of
Nott's Funeral Chapel
located on 5th Street
facing Macleod Trail (ca.
1913)
Esplanade Archives
0350.0103



(ABOVE) Exterior of the "New Phone Office" located on 5th
Street SE (ca. 1913).
Esplanade Archives 0350.0021



(RIGHT) Exterior of
the J.F. Bendings
home at 387 5th
Street SE (ca. 1913).
Esplanade Archives
0350.0094

From the Stacks

PAGE 26



Portrait of Mr. Francis Fatt (ca. 1903)
Esplanade Archives
P522.190

"...early in the
fresh Spring
morning I
walked out of
the old Leland
Hotel after a
breakfast, to
spy out the
land."



Portrait of
Katherine
(nee Coch-
ran) Fatt,
wife of
Francis Fatt
(ca. 1904)
Esplanade
Archives
P5.18

The Rambling Recollections of Mr. Francis F. Fatt

One of Medicine Hat's earliest and most prominent citizens is Mr. Francis F. Fatt. An outspoken and honest man, Mr. Fatt moved from Warminster, England to Montreal, and then to Medicine Hat in May of 1886. Serving the Anglican Church, Mr. Fatt came as a Lay Reader to the Parish of St. Barnabas to assist Reverend Hugh Tudor. He carried on as Lay Reader and assistant to the church until 1912. During this time he also held the jobs of CPR Train Baggage-man and Medicine Hat's Post Master.

Mr. Francis Fatt wrote an account of his time in Medicine Hat, sharing his views of the goings-on of the community. Here is an excerpt from his account:

In reply to the "questionnaire" received from my old friend Mr. R.M. Napier in regard to the early history of the above Parish,

I find that if I must answer it, I shall have to deal with many personal matters, which for the present must be forgiven, if a living account is to be given to the present good Parishioners of Saint Barnabas.

In 1886 I was living in Montreal and at the time was Secretary of St. Cecilia's Society, which was composed of the Choirmen of the Church of Saint John the Evangelist.

In the "Church Times" early in the year, I read a letter from the Rev. Mr. Agassiz who was working in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle appealing to young Churchmen to join him in establishing a Community of men, who would work with their hands on the land in season, and on their spare days and Sundays hold mission services among the settlers.

By such means a leavening influence would be felt around the centre and the members of the Community would

pay their expenses through their labour.

This appealed to me, young enthusiastic Churchman as I was, and I wrote to Bishop Anson, offering myself; I received a very nice reply from the Bishop, in which he stated that Mr. Agassiz had written his letter quite on his own accord, evidently forgetting that the starting of such a commendable plan needed certain funds which at the present time were not forthcoming. However, the Bishop said; - "Come on out here, the Work is heavy and the labourers are few."

So In May 1886 I landed at Qu'Appelle Station in the middle of the night; early in the fresh Spring morning I walked out of the old Leland Hotel after a breakfast, to spy out the land. Along the muddy street a man was driving an ox team, the first I had ever -seen; he stopped the oxen and said to me quite plainly - "Say, young feller, where do

continued Pg. 27

you come from?" I said "Montreal." "Well, you look the dead spit of a young feller I knew in Bruce County." I knew nothing about the joke which became prevalent afterwards, but this really was an actual fact.

Shortly afterwards a team arrived, to drive me up to Saint Johns College, the group of buildings erected about two miles out of town. Here, the Bishop had collected a few young men, who he hoped to prepare for Holy Orders and at the same time another group of young chaps who were to be trained to be farmers, under a good farm instructor; these latter paid premiums for their agricultural education.

The good Bishop hoped that the mixing of these two divergent elements would result in common good, but alas, the scheme was impossible!

The Divinity students worked hard at their studies, regular canonical hours were kept, mission services were held around the country and taken by themselves, they were successful. Such men as Archdeacon Dobie, Rev. T.W. Cunliffe and others commenced here and proved by their lives, the value of the training received by them at Saint Johns.

The agricultural students tho' were of a different colour; most of them sent out from England because they were unmanageable at home and their parents hoping that under the loving care of our good Bishop, they could be made into decent Canadian Farmers. The experiment was hopeless, but in the meanwhile the Bishop decided to send me to Medicine Hat, where the Rev. Hugh A. Tudor was all alone working a big parish.

I remember the Bishop sending me away with his blessing and telling me that I was to live with Mr. Tudor, do whatever he should appoint, and in my leisure time I was to read such books as he should provide.

So, I started off for Medicine Hat on the C.P.Ry; the line for regular traffic ended at Moose Jaw, where we changed to a freight train caboose at the end. What a long bumpy trail that was! One of my fellow passengers was Mr. Albert Cotton, who was going to Medicine Hat to take charge of the company's stores.

My instructions were to get off the train at Maple Creek, where Mr. Tudor would meet me; he was taking services there the next day and would initiate me

into my work. The next day, Sunday, service was held at the NWMP Barracks, attended by the Police only. The officer in charge at that time was Inspector McIlree, a North of Ireland man, who had married a North of Ireland woman lately.

They disliked Mr. Tudor and were only distantly polite. "Yes, my dear, I can assure you, he looks just like a Catholic Priest," she said to a new officer's wife. "Well, I am glad to hear that," said the newcomer, who was a little better read and educated than Mrs. McI. A short time afterwards, she said to Mrs. McI. who had enquired if she had said right:- "Why no, if you meant that he looked like a Roman Catholic Priest, he does not, for he had on a clean surplice and was clean shaven!"

However, Mr. Tudor soon made men like him; he was such a manly chap, so kind and gentle to women and children, but

"Why no, if you meant that he looked like a Roman Catholic Priest, he does not, for he had on a clean surplice and was clean shaven!"

Continued Pg. 28



A group of Medicine Hat's early residents; including William Cousins, Fred Forester, Harry Yuill, Francis F. Fatt, W. Finlay, and Dr. Calder (undated).
Esplanade Archives
P451.72

Francis Fatt continued...

he would not stand any irreverence or bullying. He was a stocky built chap and could use his fists if required and to some effect.

The year before, 1885, when the rebellion was on, the Rocky Mountain Rangers were tented on the bank of the river, about a mile west of the town. They were a good lot of men from Pincher Creek and Macleod, but wild of course; one of them riding down Main Street about where Hargrave's store was, saw Mr. Tudor walking along the decrepit old sidewalk. He pulled his lariat and swung it over Mr. T's shoulders, - the latter realizing what had happened, immediately cinched the rope around a hitching post right close by and then pulled the surprised Ranger off his horse. He took him by the scruff of the neck and as the jeers of the Rangers comrades scalded the unhappy rider, the parson told him that he guessed he had been spanked enough and let him go!!

Mr. Tudor was an enthusiastic Temperance man, a C.E.T.S. man, and never did Medicine Hat need temperance sermons more than in



NWMP Barracks at Police Point, Medicine Hat
Esplanade Archives. P96 51

1885. We were then under a prohibition law, enforced by the NWMP. We had a system of 'permits' issued by the Lieut. Governor; such permits were sent to Winnipeg for the purchase of spirits, which generally came in five gallon kegs.

Christmas 1885 was really a hell for Mr. Tudor, the train arrived in Medicine Hat on the day before, with a large cargo of "permits." The result can be imagined, poor Mr. Tudor used to shudder when he talked about that Christmas Day. The difficulty he had with heavy drinkers was dreadful; it

was not only the smuggling and importing, - but the manufacture of vile stuff in the town itself was worse. This was all wiped out of course by a wise licensing

system, but no man can talk to me about prohibition without my getting my dander up.

The demoralizing part about it was that the NWMP, who had to enforce the law, helped to break it. Seized liquor was taken to the Bar-

racks across the river; the kegs were ceremoniously broken and emptied into a selected part of the grounds. The onlookers did not know that underneath a clean stratum of gravel, another keg received the whiskey, which was supposed to be flung

I have known a judge who had just sentenced a man for smuggling whiskey, go right to the American Hotel and join lawyers and counsel in a round of drinks, from probably the same smuggled whiskey.

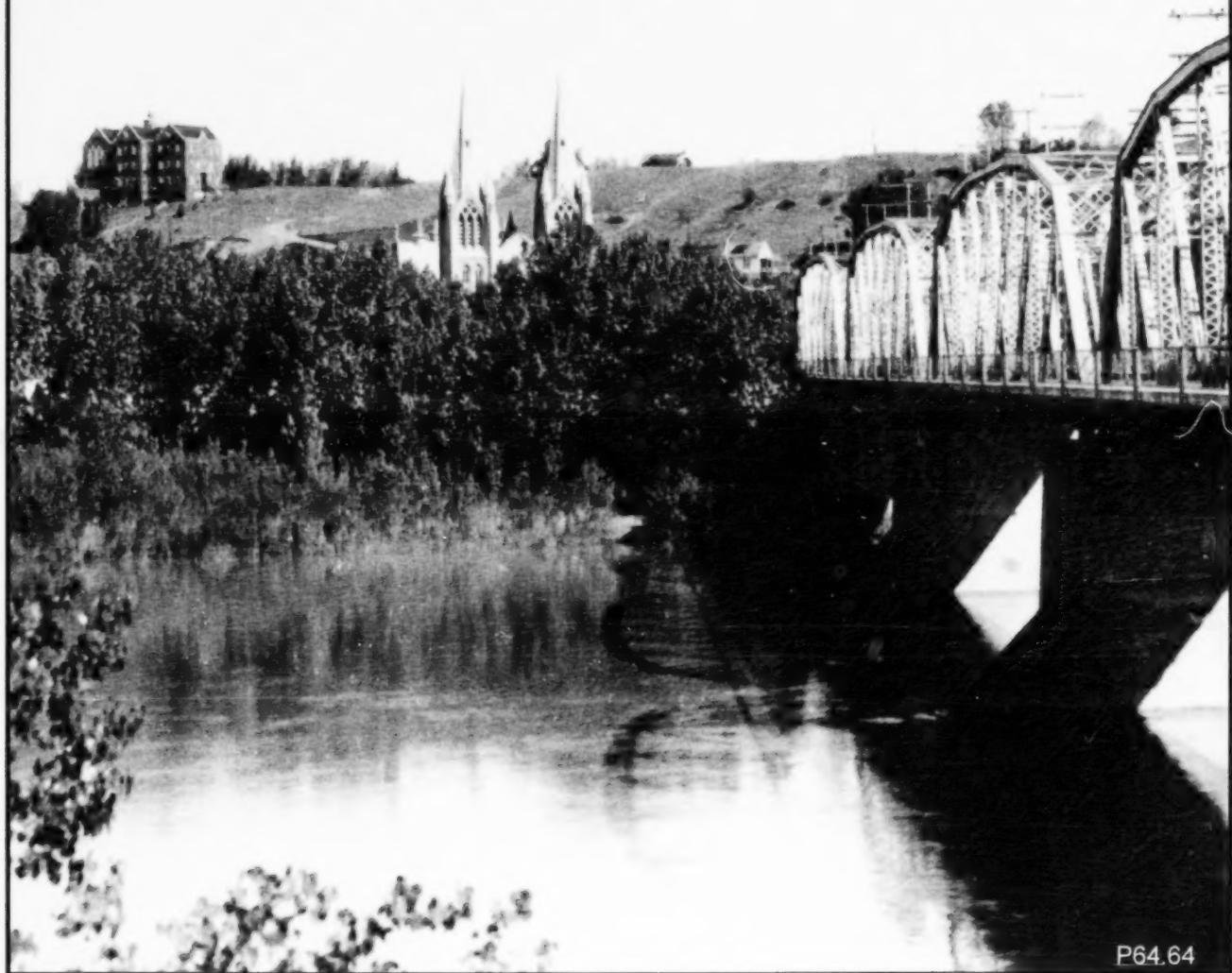
Look for more "ramblings" from Francis Fatt in the Esplanade Archives. ■

Over the past year, the Esplanade Archives has been working with the Medicine Hat General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae to digitize the photographic history of the School of Nursing and of nursing in Medicine Hat.

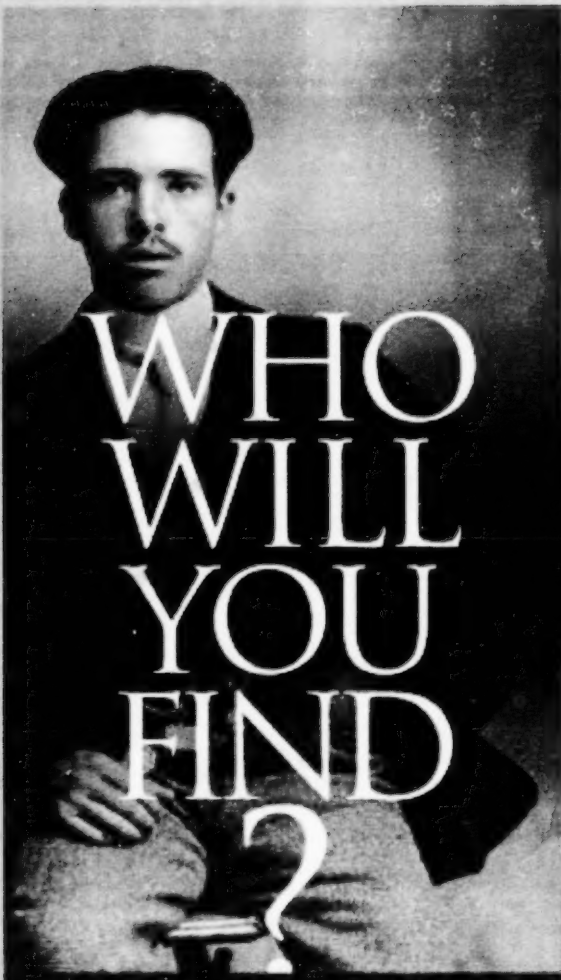
Special recognition must be given to Annie Davison for her generous donation to this project. After graduating from the School of Nursing in 1945, she worked at Medicine Hat General Hospital as well as in Grande Prairie and Edmonton. Since retiring, she has kept a close connection to the Alumnae, attending many reunions.



ESPLANADE
ARTS & HERITAGE CENTRE
ARCHIVES

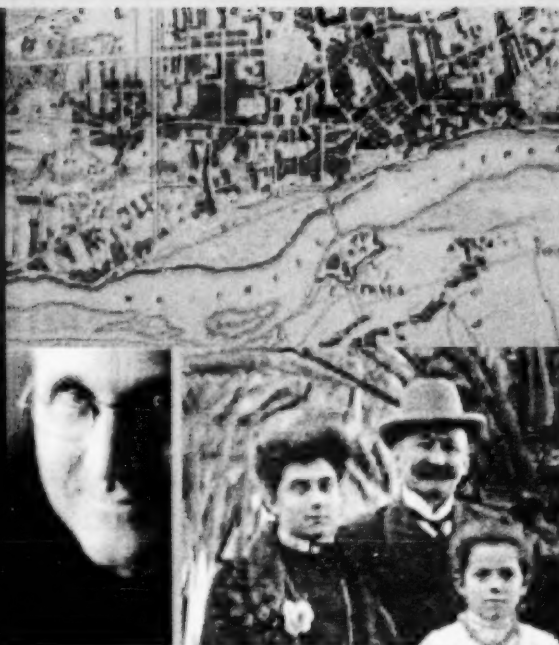


P64.64



WHO WILL YOU FIND?

ANCESTRY[®] LIBRARY EDITION



ANCESTRY[®] LIBRARY EDITION

Now Available in the
Esplanade Archives

Phone (403) 502-8582
or email
davste@medicinehat.ca
for appointments

U.S. Federal Census, 1790-1930 Complete images, many every-name census indexes

UK Census Collection, 1861-1901 Census data and images

US Immigration Collection Ship's logs and passenger indexes, linked to images of original documents

Vital Records and Social Security Death Index Birth, marriage, and death records

Military Collection WWI draft registration cards—98% of males under 46 in 1917-18

Comprehensive Reference Collection Search major genealogy reference books, browse over 700 historic and modern maps

TRACING YOUR FAMILY TREE

ProQuest
COMPANY